



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **MAY 14, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren

Excused Absence

Carl E. Moore

Staff

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, the minutes of May 7, 2008 were approved with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó reported on the following two (2) articles, three (3) events and then provided the Commission with additional information on the Group Home closures:

- "Maternity Home's 100 Year Evolution", Los Angeles Times, May 13, 2008, regarding St. Anne's Maternity Home, celebrating its 100th anniversary of operation for pregnant and homeless adolescent girls. The event will be held on July 26, 2008 at St. Anne's Maternity Home.
- "Court Overload Neglects Youths", Daily Breeze, May 13, 2008, regarding the gridlock of cases at dependency courts, which results in cases getting an average of 15 to 20 minutes of the Court's time. Because of the backlog, the article states that youths are not getting a fair shake in the court system.
- The "Success Is Our Future" Awards Banquet presented by the Department of Probation will be held on May 29, 2008 at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel.
- The Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony will be held on May 28, 2008 at the S.T.A.R. Center in Whittier.
- Group home care providers expressed concerns with their homes being closed down. They have had to lay off staff and the group home children are upset because they're being relocated to different facilities.
- Supervisor Antonovich made a motion during the May 6, 2008, Board of Supervisors meeting requesting the Department of Children and Family Services, the Probation Department and other agencies report back to the Board of Supervisors in thirty (30) days regarding the contract process and procedures.

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, a letter will be drafted to the Civil Grand Jury and the Economy & Efficiency Commission requesting a formal investigation after July 2008 regarding the process and procedures that the Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department follow for contract renewals of group homes and Foster Family Agencies.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,748.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Commission Services, informed the Commission that Vice Chair Stathatos will be presented with a scroll by Supervisor Antonovich at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on June 4, 2008.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, distributed an e-mail from Martin Flores, Camp Gonzales, nominating Brian Quinteros and Travion Mixion for this year's Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Award. Mr. Quinteros aspires to become a chef and Mr. Mixion plans to pursue a career in social work.

Commissioner Bacio distributed a biography from a deserving student named Jasmin Avila for the Commission's consideration for a Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Award.

Commissioner Hall nominated Tracy Small III for the Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship Award.

On motion of Commissioner Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the Sybil Brand Commission approved granting four (4) Scholarship Awards in the amount of \$250.00 for each of the following students: Jasmin Avila, Travion Mixion, Brian Quinteros, and Tracy Smith.

CORRESPONDENCE

The 2007 Quality & Productivity Commission Report was received.

A letter from Mr. Tom Tindall, Interim Director, Internal Services Department, was received notifying the Commission that Mr. Tim Braden will be attending all future Sybil Brand Commission Business Meetings as of June 18, 2008.

"Fee Hikes Would Upgrade Courthouses", Los Angeles Times, May 6, 2008. The article discusses planned fee hikes to compensate for future upgrades to courthouses. There was no mention of the Long Beach Superior Court or the Torrance Superior Court. The Commission is requesting the representative from the Sheriff's Department report on this subject at the June 18, 2008 Business Meeting.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM MAY 7, 2008 TO MAY 13, 2008

Western CDS – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on May 8, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Crescenta Valley Regional Center – Commissioner Cannella

The facility was visited on May 12, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Careprovider Org Foundation – 6, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaño

The facility was visited on May 12, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Sink is dripping; oven needs to be cleaned; sub-flooring needs to be replaced, it has dry rot and mold.

Eggleston RCED – Commissioner Bacio

The facility was visited on May 13, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Optimist Boys Home – 45, #1 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaño

The facility was visited on May 13, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Leak under sink.

Commissioner Bacio reviewed the following Audit Reports with the Commission:

Eggleston Youth Center (Emancipation House) – 16, #4, Eggleston Youth Center (Youth Center) – 16, #5, and Eggleston Youth Center (Transitional House) – 17, #1, Audit Report dated April 9, 2008 showed all areas of concerns have been corrected.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaño adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division